

§ 203.6 Oral evidentiary hearing before one or more members.

If an oral evidentiary hearing is to be conducted, the Maritime Administration, or the Maritime Subsidy Board or one or more of its members, may conduct such hearing. A member who is not present at the hearing may participate in the consideration and the decision of the case where the oral evidentiary hearing, if held, has been stenographically recorded in full and transcribed for the member's review.

PART 204—CLAIMS AGAINST THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE FEDERAL TORT CLAIMS ACT

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AUTHORITY: 28 U.S.C. 2672; 28 CFR 14.11; 49 CFR 1.45(a) (2) and (3).

SOURCE: 50 FR 25711, June 21, 1985, unless otherwise noted.

§ 204.1 Scope and procedure for filing claims.

This part prescribes the requirements and procedure for administrative settlement of claims against the United States, involving the Maritime Administration, under the Federal Tort Claims Act, based on death, personal injury, or damage to or loss of property. The controlling regulations are promulgated by the Department of Justice at 28 CFR Part 14—Administrative Claims Under Federal Tort Claims Act. These regulations supplement those of the Department of Justice and provide specific guidance regarding claims processing in the Maritime Administration.

§ 204.2 Claims payable.

Claims for death, personal injury, or damage to or loss of real or personal property are payable when the death,

injury or damage is caused by a negligent or wrongful act or omission of an employee of the Maritime Administration, while acting within the scope of employment and under circumstances in which the United States, if a private person, would be liable to the claimant under the law of the place where the act or omission occurred.

§ 204.3 Claims not payable.

A claim is not payable under the regulations in this part 204, if such tort claim is excluded from the scope of the Federal Tort Claims Act, as amended, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2680.

§ 204.4 Time limitations on claims.

(a) A claim can be settled only if presented in writing within two years after it accrues.

(b) The two year statute of limitations is not tolled until the Maritime Administration receives from a claimant, or the claimant's duly authorized agent or legal representative, an executed Standard Form 95, "Claims for Damage, Injury, or Death," or written notification of an incident, together with a claim for money damages in a sum certain, for death, personal injury, or damage to or loss of real or personal property. When a claim is received in any office, mail unit, or other Maritime Administration activity which does not have settlement authority over the claim, such office, unit or activity shall transmit it to the official vested with such authority without delay (see § 204.13, this part).

§ 204.5 Notification to claimant of action on claim.

(a) If a claim is approved (either for the amount claimed or less than such full amount), the claimant, prior to the disbursement of an award, shall sign a document releasing the United States, its agents and employees from all further claims relating to the incident giving rise to the approved claim.

(b) If the claim is finally denied, the official vested with such authority shall inform the claimant by certified or registered mail of the final denial of the claim. Notification of final denial